

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PERMREP'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD: SUGGESTED DISCUSSION
TOPICS

REF: STATE 115893

1. AT THE JUNE 19 MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT WITH NATO SECRETARY
GENERAL

LUNS AND THE FIFTEEN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC
COUNCIL, THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL LOOK TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR THE DEFINITIVE EXPRESSION OF U.S. VIEWS ON POSSIBLE STEPS TO
FULFILL THE ALLIEDGOALS RECENTLYREAFFIRMED AT THE NATO SUMMITY. THEY
WILL NOT EXPECT FULLY ARTICULATE ACTION PROPOSALS, BUT RATHER AN
INDICATION OF PRIORITY U.S. CONCERNS. THE REPORTS OF THE PERMREPS
AND THEIR VIEWS ON THE MEETING WILL CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT IN
ALLIED CAPITALS AS GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER POST-SUMMIT NATO ACTIVITIES.
IN THIS MESSAGE, WE SUGGEST TOPICS THE PRESIDENT MIGHT TOUCH UPON,
AND
DISCUSS AS WELL PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS OF THE MEETING.

2. WHILE THE SUMMIT AND RECENT CONGRESSIONAL VOTES ON DEFENSE
LEGISLATION HAVE DIMINISHED EUROPEAN CONCERNS ABOUT THE U.S.
COMMITMENT, THE COUNCIL WOULD WELCOME HEARING THE PRESIDENT'S
VIEWS ON THE POLITICAL FORCES NOW AT PLAY IN THE U.S. AND THE
EFFECTS THEY ARE LIKELY TO HAVE ON THE U.S. ROLE IN THE ALLIANCE.
IN PARTICULAR, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONGRES-
SIONAL EXPERIENCE, THEYWOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN HIS VIEWS
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ON THE MOOD AND INFLUENCE OF FACTIONS WITHIN CONGRESS, AS WELL AS
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES AND
HOW THEY MIGHT AFFECT U.S RELATIONS WITH ITS ALLIES.

3. WE HAD RECOMMENDED (USNATO 3114) A REINFORCED NATO MEETING BE HELD ON THE MIDDLE EAST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT WE ARE GLAD TO SEE FROM STATE 134639 THAT THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN LIGHT OF HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH ISRAELI AND ARAB LEADERS. THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL VALUE HIGHLY THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW HE ASSESSES THE PROSPECTS AND PRACTICAL STEPS NECESSARY FOR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN THE AREA.

4. EAST-WEST RELATIONS. WITH PROSPECTS BRIGHTENING FOR CONCLUSION OF THE CSCE IN LATE JULY, THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL WELCOME COMMENT ON U.S. VIEWS ON CSCE SUMMIT. THEY WILL ALSO APPRECIATE INSIGHTS INTO U.S. VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR SALT AND MBFR. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD WELCOME, ABOVE ALL, THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON THE LIKELY EVOLUTION OF U.S.-USSR RELATIONS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

5. INTER-ALLIED RELATIONS. WHILE DISCUSSION ON PORTUGAL WILL BE INHIBITED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE PORTUGUESE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ALERT TO ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT COMMENT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT MAKE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN IBERIA. ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, THEY WILL EXPECT THE U.S. TO FAVOR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES. THE MEETING ALSO OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERLINE THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON AID TO TURKEY AND TO URGE OTHERS TO ASSIST TURKEY.

6. FUTURE SUMMIT GATHERINGS. THE COUNCIL WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW ON EUROPEAN-NORTH AMERICAN GATHERINGS AT THE SUMMIT.

7. ALLIANCE DEFENSES. THE PERMREPS, OF COURSE, WILL EXPECT REAFFIRMATION OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT WHICH THE PRESIDENT MADE AT THE SUMMIT. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF THE PRESIDENT REITERATED FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE NEED FOR THE ALLIES TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE RESOURCES DEVOTED TO DEFENSE. HE COULD FIRST EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR NATIOS TO MAKE MODEST REAL INCREASES
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IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, BUT NOTE, AS HE DID IN HIS STATEMENT AT THE SUMMIT, THAT WE ARE WASTING AN IMPORTANT PART OF WHAT WE PUT INTO DEFENSE THROUGH LACK OF STANDARDIZATION, INTER-OPERABILITY, AND GENUINE ALLIANCE DEFENSE COOPERATION, AS WELL AS THROUGH DUPLICATION OF EFFORT. THE PRESIDENT MIGHT SUPPORT STANDARDIZATION, AND WELCOME THE RECENT EUROGROUP INITIATIVE CALLING FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT OF NATO ARMAMENTS.

8. ECONOMIC ISSUES. U.S. ECONOMIC TRENDS, PARTICULARLY TO THE EXTENT THEY INFLUENCE U.S. DEFENSE SPENDING, WOULD BE A TOPIC OF INTEREST TO PERMREPS, AS WOULD CURRENT U.S. DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ON THE ENERGY FRONT.

9. FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS REASONS AND TO GRATIFY THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT BE PHOTOGRAPHED WITH THE GROUP BY THE EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN PRESS, AND THAT COPIES OF THE PHOTOS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLICATION IN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE. IF CONVENIENT, INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR RELEASE IN RESPECTIVE ALLIED CAPITALS WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL. FINALLY, IF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL COULD SAY A FEW WORDS FOR THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING--ESPECIALLY IF IT RESULTED IN TV COVERAGE BOTH IN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE--IT WOULD SERVE A MOST BENEFICIAL PURPOSE IN REMINDING PUBLICS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC OF THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S ATTACHES TO CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ITS ALLIES.

10. SINCE I SHALL BE IN CLOSE DAILY TOUCH WITH THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN THE DAYS PRECEDING OUR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, I WILL BE ABLE TO PLUMB FURTHER THEIR THINKING. IF I LEARN OF OTHER SUBJECTS THAT THEY MAY WISH TO DISCUSS WITH THE PRESIDENT, I WILL PASS THEM ON. IF THE PRESIDENT INTENDS TO USE THIS MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF SYG LUNS AND THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON ANY PARTICULAR SUBJECTS IN SOME DETAIL, IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF I COULD INFORM THEM BEFOREHAND OF SUBJECTS HE IS LIKELY TO RAISE. THIS WILL ALLOW THEM TO PREPARE THEMSELVES BETTER AND, I THINK, RESULT IN THEIR FULLER PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSION TO WHICH THEY ARE LOOKING FORWARD.

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